



Since 1957

# SKIP

• October 1996

**Amateur Radio - Computers - Communications - Internet**

## ARRL Petitions FCC To Change Safety Rules

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to reconsider and reverse portions of the Commission's August 1, 1996, Report and Order that imposed RF-emission safety standards on Amateur Radio, including a 50-W threshold to trigger an RF-safety evaluation. In setting the 50-W threshold, the ARRL said, the FCC failed to consider the effect of antenna height, antenna gain, emission mode, duty cycle or operating frequency. The League asked the FCC either to scale the evaluation threshold by frequency to match the maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits—directly corresponding to the way the regulations scale the exposure levels with frequency—or to set the evaluation threshold for all HF operation at 150 W at a distance of 10 meters from all parts of the antenna.

At or below that power level and at that distance from the radiator, "you'd be well on the side of safe, even at 100 duty cycle, with any antenna likely to be encountered on HF," said ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, KA1CV, our HQ staff liaison to the ARRL RF Safety Committee. "Some VHF/UHF and microwave station configurations could result in an RF exposure exceeding the requirements of the regulations, so the 50-W limit to trigger an evaluation is more appropriate above 30 MHz," said Hare. He emphasized that all stations, regardless of output power or frequency, still must abide by the specified MPE limits for RF.

The new rules, effective January 1, 1997, require licensees of amateur stations running 50 W output or more on any band to conduct a routine RF-safety evaluation to determine if the station could expose people to RF levels that exceed the MPE limits specified in the new rules. (Mobile installations using push-to-talk, regardless of power, are exempt from the environmental evaluation requirement.) In

its reconsideration filing, the League called the 50-W threshold "regulatory overkill" and "without scientific basis." Among other things, the League said the means to conduct RF radiation evaluations are not yet available, and the ability to reconfigure a station that might exceed the new limits "is highly problematic." Coupled with any state and local land-use and RF-exposure regulations that might exist, application of the new rules "may constitute a de facto revocation or modification of the station license," the League said.

The League also said the FCC adopted the rules "through flawed procedures" and without advance notice and opportunity for prior comment.

The ARRL said that the new rules differentiate between ham stations and other Commission licensees "which are treated far less restrictively." While the FCC preempted state and local government regulation of personal wireless service facilities based on environmental effects of RF emissions, it refused to do the same for ham radio "without any basis for the distinction."

The ARRL already has asked the FCC to extend the deadline to change amateur examinations and modify question pools, but the Commission has yet to act on the request. The League said that, as it now stands, hams have no way to determine the scope of their obligations under the new rules.

The League suggested the FCC vacate its new RF safety rules governing amateur stations and issue a further notice to permit comment on the proposed rules, and, in particular, the 50-W evaluation threshold.

-ARRL



## How 'bout a Quikie?

The Osceola County Repeater Association will hold a one-day Quikie Tailgate at the Masonic Lodge at 10th Street and Oregon, north of Hwy 192 in downtown St. Cloud.

For more information contact Amos (941-427-0336) or Larry (407-892-2774).

## Starke Hamfest and Computer Show

The Bradford Area Amateur Radio Club will hold its sixth annual hamfest and computer show on Friday & Saturday October 18/19th. The hours are 1600 to 2100, Friday and 0800 to 1500 on Saturday. The location will be the Bradford County Fairgrounds on US301 North of Starke. Talk-in frequency 145.15 (r) or 146.52 (s).

For ticket and table information, contact Dan Phillips, K4RVD, 8214 Carl Brook Rd., Keystone Hts., FL 32656 or call 352-475-2695.

## FCC puts Test Electronic Vanity Filing Site on the Web

This is only a test! In preparation for an expected onslaught of Gate 2, 3 and 4 vanity call sign applications, the FCC has made available a test version of the electronic Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign Request form, Form 610V. The electronic test form is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amradsrv.html> (click on Interactive Beta Test Server to access the form). Detailed filing instructions are available by clicking on the item number on the Internet form. The FCC plans to run the Internet electronic filing test for approximately one week, so prospective electronic filers can get a feel for the process and comment on the form. At that point, the FCC is expected to issue another public notice saying when the the electronic Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign Request form will be put on line for real (check WIAW bulletins and the ARRL Web page for late-breaking information). Send written comments and suggestions regarding electronic filing to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to [webmail@fcc.gov](mailto:webmail@fcc.gov).

Over the next few months, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau intends to allow applicants for all services to submit their applications over the Internet. For technical assistance, contact the FCC Technical Support Group at 202-414-1250. For general questions regarding the application, call the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Consumer Assistance staff at 800-322-1117.—FCC

## FCC CLARIFIES VANITY FILING PROCEDURES

With vanity call sign Gate 2 set to open September 23, the FCC is asking hams to direct all inquiries concerning amateur vanity call sign requests and filing procedures to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Consumer Assistance Branch in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (800-322-1117). Do not call the Commission's lockbox contractor in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Bureau also notes that vanity call sign requests—as well as other

application types—are processed in receipt date order only. The time of delivery within a given receipt date has no bearing on the order of processing on that day. An application filed at 12:01 AM has the same processing priority as an application received at 11:59 PM that same day. Applications will be processed in the order received at the processor's work station. The Bureau suggests taking this into consideration when delivering applications to Pittsburgh. (As vanity call sign gates open, no grants will occur until all first-day applications have been received, no matter the manner of delivery—Ed.)—FCC

## Help the National Hurricane Center in Miami

The Amateur Radio volunteers at the National Hurricane Center in Miami need your help.

Since 1980 radio amateur have collected supplemental storm data for use by the Center's hurricane forecasters. Whether or not you are a radio amateur, your are invited to participate in this public service activity.

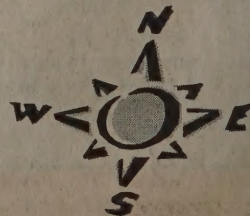
If a hurricane comes within 300 miles of your location, send data measured by your home weather station to W4EHW using the form on the Internet home page:

<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw>  
or e-mail to: [w4ehw@fiu.edu](mailto:w4ehw@fiu.edu)

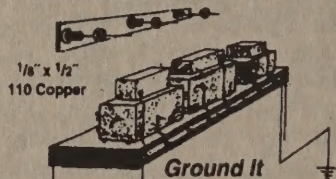
We hope you will be able to serve as a weather volunteer. There is no cost or obligation.

Please register with W4EHW by letter or e-mail, including: name, address, telephone number, FAX number, e-mail address and approximate height of your anemometer.

Thanks from W4EHW Volunteers  
Amateur Radio Station  
National Hurricane Center  
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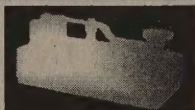


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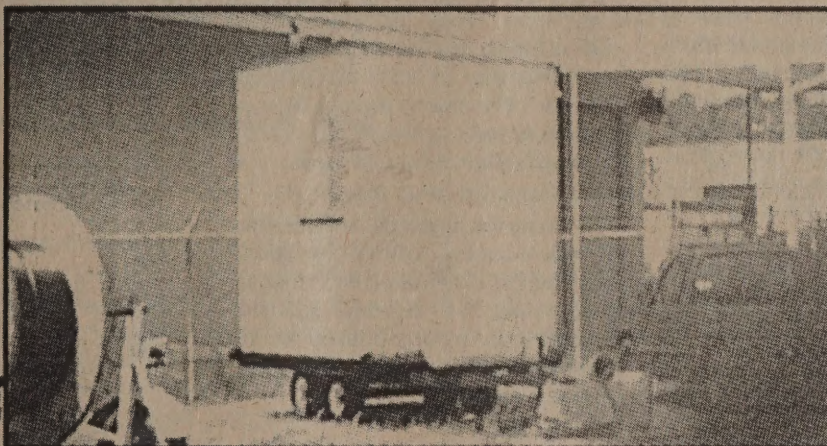
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# From the Editor

## Odds 'n Ends

As the powers that be salivate over the billions of dollars that could be realized by auctioning off portions of the frequency spectrum, many hams are painfully aware that the ham bands are extremely vulnerable. This brings up a equally painful issue; is there a declining interest in amateur radio?

Some would say the outcome-based licensing has cultivated a new breed of ham, less interested in the technical capabilities and merits of equipment and more in its use as a portable phone and tool for legal longer range chit chatting. It seems that much of amateur radio's intended use for emergency communications is slowly fading into the background. One might even speculate that amateur radio, in its eagerness to swell the ranks hence presenting impressive numbers and statistics, may be contributing to its demise.

Just as SKIP has lamenting the decline in classified advertising, it has perceived an erosion in emergency communications-related activities. The old spirit of participation in traffic nets, field days, and other activities has declined to the same lackadaisical attitude attributed to citizens in our so-called political process.

Attendance at hamfests seems to be declining as many vendors will attest. A typical Saturday/Sunday hamfest peters out by noon on Saturday. Sundays have become vendor's "old home week".

The old reliables like Kenwood are looking to enrich their coffers elsewhere, like selling their products at outlets catering to CB operators. Anybody can buy a 2 meter handheld at Radio Shack.

In my moment of melancholy, I keep thinking that diluting the requirements for obtaining an amateur radio license has diminished the pride of many hams. The gradual extinction of code is having an effect on the allure of participating in CW traffic nets. The big tent that welcomes all persons defined as amateur radio operators seems to be filled with some sort of inert gas.

One other loose end:

With the illness of Ed Roller and the non-receipt of all but a few reports from the Florida Phone Nets, I suggest if one wants their activities reported, they send the reports directly to me. Send by regular mail or by e-mail to: [gwentz@digital.net](mailto:gwentz@digital.net)

Don't forget the SKIP Web Page at:

<http://www.digital.net/skip/>



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# QCWA News

Frank Obenauf, W2IAJ



## **PICNIC!!! - At Seminole Park**

The Pelican Chapter #128 of QCWA will again host its Annual Catered Fried Chicken Picnic on November 20th, in shelter #13 at Lake Seminole Park, St. Petersburg, Florida. The time will be from 10:30 until whenever. The cost will remain the same as before at \$7.50 per person. The menu is fried chicken with all the trimmings including dessert and drink. There will be prizes and goodies before the picnic. All QCWA members and guests are invited to attend. Tickets and reservations can be obtained from Don Bice, W4PCO at 813-347-2707, or the Callbook address. Talk-in will be on 145.29 (-600), the QCWA Repeater.

## **Gator Chapter #32**

The last of the informal summer meetings was held September 7, 1996 at Stacy's, Missouri Ave., Clearwater FL. There were 31 present for a good luncheon and fellowship. We hope some of our winter "snowbirds" will be back for our October 5th meeting. Formal programs start then with a good speaker at each monthly meeting during the winter. Our President, Bill (K4AVH) and Wife Gerry Bell will be at the National QCWA Convention in Ottawa, Ontario Canada that weekend. Frank Obenauf, W2IAJ will preside at the Chapter Luncheon.

K4AVH (Bill), KR8G (Bob) and W2ZYQ (Bart) inventoried radio and computer gear of Eli Nannis (K4JMH), a recent silent key. They also took down his 50' tower, cleaned up the gear and sold most of it already. Hams helping hams.

The president of Atlanta Chapter 49, Judson Whatley, W4NZJ, visited us today while visiting his Uncle Ron Whatley, WA4JVR who is a member of both our Gator Chapter as well as the Pelican Chapter 128. - Frank Obenauf, VP.

## **Pelican Chapter #128**

QCWA Repeater K9BSL/R is back on the air after being off for 8 days while the equipment was relocated into a GE rack-type cabinet. QCWA and Pelican members KR8G, Bob Klieber and K4AVH, Bill Bell helped Dewight Rader, N4POA and Jay, K9BSL muscle the equipment up the stairs to the penthouse at 540 2nd Avenue South; the repeater site. The telephone line was installed and finally was working Thursday August 8th.

It's time to think about nominations for the Phil Stern

award. As all know, this award is given as the last order of business at the December meeting. Last year's recipient was Blanche Randles, W4GXZ. Blanche and Bill Bell, K4AVH and Don Bice (1992 winner) will be accepting nominations up and until the Pelican Picnic at Lake Seminole on November 20th. If you have a candidate, talk it over with the committee so they may know your feelings.

At the August meeting there were 13 members and guests present. There was a mix-up by the new Stacy management and the QCWA room was rented out to another group. The Pelicans had to meet in the main restaurant portion but Tom, the manager, compensated for the inconvenience by giving all the Pelicans a complimentary meal. When the Pelicans left, they all had a happy smile on their faces.

If you need to check the Pelican Chapter meeting times, check the City Calendar that appears in the Times on the last Sunday of each month. Look under "Communications".

Ralph Luedke, K9MOR accepted the job as Program Chairman. If you know of a program source of interest to the Chapter, talk it over with Ralph. The first program will be presented at the October meeting and assures everyone that it will be of interest.

Don Bice, W4PCO reports that he is now surfing the World Wide Web and that his arrangement gives him access to the world with lots of time to surf. He also reports that he and Art Monsees, W4BK hope to send their 1997 QCWA QSO party results to HQ via the Internet.

There are three QSO parties in 1997: February, March and the Golden Anniversary Party in August. Look for more details in the QCWA Journal.

There were several missing members who were to receive awards at the March and April meetings. You are missed and we hope that you and your Lady will attend meetings and come out to the Pelican Picnic.

Bill Bell, K4AVH and Gerry are planning to attend the International QCWA Convention to be held in Ottawa Canada on October 4th and 5th. It's not too late to plan to attend. You can meet your QCWA Officers and attend many of the interesting programs.



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## Notice to QCWA Members

If you find your Chapter listed below, your SKIP QCWA Editor has never received any correspondence from your Chapter Secretary. In order to keep members informed of other Chapter's activities, we need to hear from you. Light a fire under your secretary and get the news of your Chapter published each month in the SKIP.

Chapter 45 Citrus  
Chapter 48 Treasure Coast  
Chapter 53 Suncoast  
Chapter 62 Suwannee  
Chapter 66 Spacecoast  
Chapter 80 Caloosa  
Chapter 82 Sailfish  
Chapter 84 Florala  
Chapter 96 Gateway  
Chapter 107 Central Florida  
Chapter 111 Palm Beach  
Chapter 120 QCWA Wireless Women  
Chapter 121 Highlands Florida  
Chapter 131 Gulf Coast  
Chapter 152 Royal Palm  
Chapter 173 Golden Triangle

## Traffic Nets

### QFN Report

Total: QNI = 792. QTC = 601. QND = 1141.

Compared with last month, our QNI was down a little, but QTC showed a gain, and we handled it all in less time. Guess that means we worked harder and were more efficient - good practice with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the new year looming ahead. Storm season is still here. WX4H had his 2-meter rig, TNC, and computer wiped out by lightning and they weren't even plugged in. Glad it didn't get the HF rig! Need an ambitious gardener? - see WV5Z. His is a cut above most. Seems he edged Kevin's coax sending the signal to ground. Kevin soon unearthed the problem - got right to the root of it - and replaced the cable. Congratulations to WA9VND and husband on the marriage of their youngest son.

Thanks to AD4DO and WX4H for a link connection, K4SCL for FAST/SPARC, and WA4EIC, W4DL, AA4HT, AB4XK, WX4H for carrying traffic to the AM nets. I can't imagine a net anywhere with better participation and hard-working members. Join us on QFN at 7 PM and 10:30 PM Eastern on 3.651 MHz. The alternate 40-meter frequency is 7.051 MHz. Just starting in CW traffic handling? QFNS, the slower CW traffic/training net, meets at 8 PM on 3.715 MHz. FMSN, the medium speed CW traffic/training net, meets at 5:30 PM on 3.651 MHz. New members always welcome! 73/88 Phil KA4FZI QFN NM

## QFNS Report

QFNS is open to all Amateur participation with Novice, Tech Plus and higher license class. The purpose of QFNS is to handle traffic at Slow Speed CW and train the new ham in CW traffic handling. We are seeking Novice and Tech Plus Amateurs to check in with us and learn. A great place to sharpen your CW skills. Our staff of volunteer Net Control Stations will welcome you and guide you. The Net takes place daily at 8 p.m. local time in the Novice portion of the 60 Mtr band, 3.715. Join us and take advantage of the training that is offered. Its FREE! The experienced are also invited. Share your expertise with others.

Stats for August were: QNI 225 QTC 98 QND 840 during 31 consecutive sessions. An improvement over last month.

A big thanks to the Net Control Stations and QFN Reps for their continued efforts and support. They are: KA4FZI, KE4DNO, WC4D, KD4GR, WA9VND, KC4ZHN and KC4ZHF. KD4OGV is Alt, NCS and QFN rep. Among our faithful check ins are: N4WLM, AI4NK, AE4WC, KE4RSN, and KT4QV.

Have your call added to the list!

73/88 de Bob - KC4ZHF QFNS Net Mgr.

## SEFTN Report

A big thanks to the following for their 100% participation in the Southeast Florida Traffic Net during the month of August: KD4GR, KD4HGU, KD4JMV, KC4JNM, KB4WBY, KA2YZM and KC4ZHF.

Our 107th Consecutive month with over 1000 stations checking into and participating in the net. The honors go to AI, KS4JK for being number 1000 in August. NCS was WB4PAM.

Speaking of WB4PAM, Charles is still going strong with Tuesday evening "Traffic Tips". Charles has put a lot of effort into these presentations and has obviously done a lot of research. Your efforts, Charles, are much appreciated. Join the Net each Tuesday for these informative sessions, which begin promptly at 6:30 pm.

Its good to have Walt, W4DWN, back after a long absence. Walt has consented to and is now participating as a net control station on the Wednesday sessions of the early net at 11:30 a.m.

Laura, WA9VND, has been missed for the past couple of weeks while attending to business and pleasure out of the State.

Statistics for August included: Stations 1374, Traffic 369, Time 2246 minutes during 62 sessions.

Don't forget the early session at 11:30 a.m. where traffic is taken locally and passed to the Florida Midday Net.

Join us daily on the 146.79 Mhz. repeater at 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.. Repeater coverage in Broward, Dade and Palm Beach Counties.

73/88

Bob - KC4ZHF Asst. Net Mgr.



# Just in time for Christmas

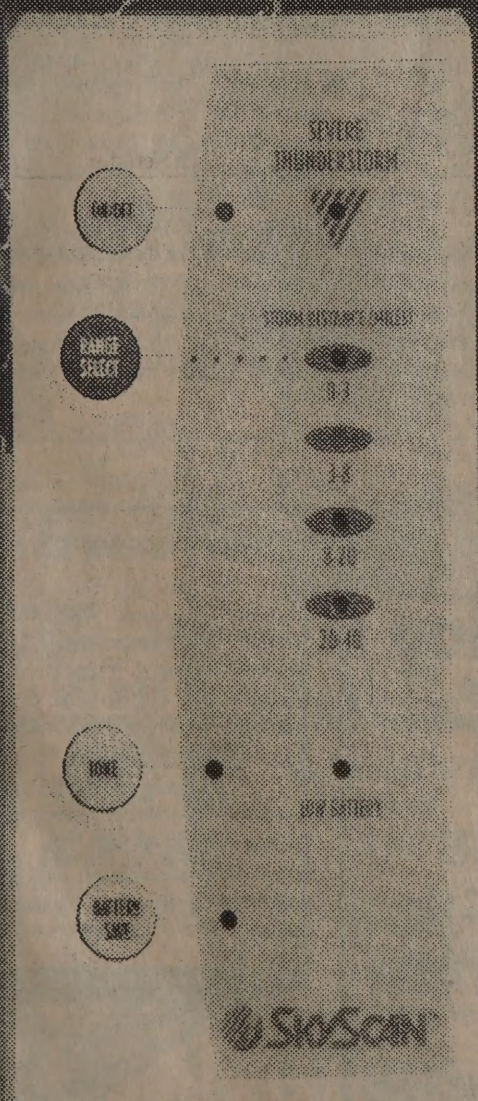
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Once upon a time there was a neat ham shack with radios and computer equipment everywhere. That is, until it got hit by lightning. Then there was a mess. Could the damage have been prevented? Probably, if adequate warning had been received to protect the gear.

I've been a ham since 1954 and have yet to loose the first piece of equipment due to lightning. Did I get panicky when a storm came up suddenly? You bet. First - antennas had to be disconnected immediately. Then I would count off the seconds from the flash to the sound to see if the storm was coming towards us, going away, or just staying the same distance from us. And that was GUESSWORK! That is no longer true with the revolutionary new SKYSCAN T'storm detector.

SKYSCAN can warn you up to 40 miles ahead of a storm to give you time to protect YOU and your gear. Though totally portable, it can be operated from an AC Power Supply\* hung in its Wall Hanger\* as a stationary unit to give you peace of mind you've never experienced before. As a portable unit, put it in the handy Carrying Case\* to take it golfing, field days, Hamfests, the beach, ball games, picnics, scouting, hiking, camping or outdoor events.

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# Knights of the Kilocycle

Don Browne, KQ4YM

## Knights Get Ready For Hamfest Season

The Knights of the Kilocycle, amateur radio's oldest net, was organized on Christmas Day, 1929, and is now celebrating it's 66th anniversary of operation. The Knights meet every Sunday morning at 7:30 on 3910 Kilocycles. Since 1929 there have been over 530 memberships awarded to amateur operators. The Knights always welcomes new members. A membership certificate is earned after five consecutive weekly check-ins to the net.

## And here goes the Knightly News:

The hamfest season has begun and many of the Knights are packing their bags, loading the van and heading out on the open road with mobile rigs at ready. Stan, W4JJK of Sebastian manned the QCWA booth at Melbourne in September. Jay K9BSL, of St. Pete made the trip to Melbourne and had a good time. Bob, W4KOG of North Palm also expects to travel to a few shows this season. Bob makes the weekly report of coming hamfests each Sunday. So check in with the Knights weekly to keep up to date on coming shows.

Charlie Stevens, K8RIF had been in the hospital in Ohio over the summer and we can now report he's doing well and even has talked with a few Knights on 75 meters lately. Marian, KC4MFT of New Port Richey has kept the net up to date on Charlie's recovery summer.

Stan, W4JJK made a visit to his son in Reno but at last report didn't bring back any extra cash from casino winnings. Stan also has been playing with his new camcorder and taping his neighbors out on the lake behind his home.

We welcome to membership, Ben, K9QHZ of Niceville. Ben made his fifth consecutive checkin and will be receiving certificate #542. Congratulations and welcome Ben!

Returning from his New York vacation was Herb, AD4UA. We also heard from Dorothy, N4TXT who is back from vacationing up north. She checked in one Sunday from Ft. Desoto State Park.

Bob, W4KOG had a lightening strike that wiped out his radios and TV the week before the Melbourne Hamfest. He did manage to get his Scout up and running though, in order to check in on the nets. Bob is also active with the QCWA nets.

Bob, W8DGU has his old call back from 1930. We'll be seeing more and more of the old calls returning as the vanity call program gets underway.

For those who have computers and internet access, please check out my web site at: <http://members.aol.com/browne>. Go to the ham pages for local info and the latest Knights news. I also recommend the Florida Skip's web pages. They are very well done and I encourage all to take a look at them. Some very useful ham links are found on the pages.

We encourage new check-ins each Sunday morning to ham radio's oldest net. Please join us each Sunday at 7:30 AM, 3910 Kilocycles and let us know what's been happening in your area. We welcome all hams from anywhere that can hear us. Invite your out of state friends to listen in and call in some Sunday morning. See you all on Sunday morning.



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## PSL - HAMFEST-96

On Saurday, October 26, 1996, the Port St. Lucie ARA will present HAMFEST-96 at the Port St. Lucie Yacht Club, 500 Prima Vista Blvd., Port St. Lucie. Ther will be prize drawings on the hour starting at 9 a.m. with the drawing for the main prize at 3 p.m.

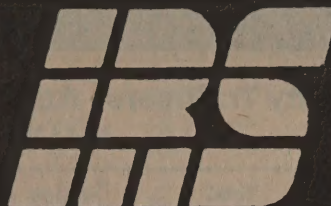
Talk-in is on PSLARA Repeater on 146.955 or on the alternate simplex frequency of 146.520.

For information call Rick Clair (407-335-1738) or Don Metzler (407-879-4914).



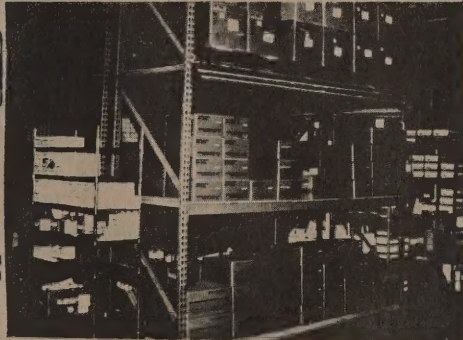
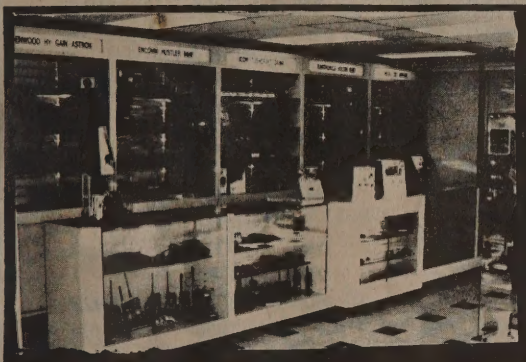


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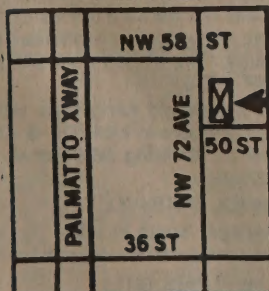


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# Statistics

## Top Twenty Traffickers - Aug. 1996

-by AA4HT and WX4H

	Station	Total		Station	Total
1	W3VR	2400	11	AA4HT	354
2	W3CUL	2082	12	W4DL	337
3	WX4H	2030	13	KC4ZHF	314
4	WA9VND	611	14	AB4XK	222
5	KE4DNO	586	15	WA4NDA	219
6	K4SCL	480	16	WA4PUP	189
7	KB4WBY	433	17	C4ZHN	157
8	NR2F	392	18	K2GNZ	146
9	KA4FZI	388	19	AD4BL	145
10	KA2YZM	368	20	KD4JMV	145

## Traffic Hounds - xxx. 1996

-by Kevin Bunin, WV5Z STMSFL

Net	QNI	AVG	QTC	AVG	SES	MGR	QTC/QNI
AIN	76	15.2	0	0.0	5	WA4ATF	0.00
BCEPN	116	29.0	2	0.5	4	KA2YZM	0.02
DEN	NO REPORT					N4LTT	
ENMC	106	15.1	7	1.0	7	KB4UEI	0.07
EPAN	768	29.5	41	1.6	26	N2UBW	0.05
FAST	570	9.2	223	3.6	62	KE4ESV	0.39
FMSN	227	7.3	56	1.8	31	KE4DNO	0.25
FMTN	322	10.4	222	7.2	31	KC4ZHN	0.69
FPON	177	8.4	58	2.8	21	WB4GCK	0.33
FPTN	1442	46.5	272	8.8	31	WN4IIV	0.19
GN	244	7.9	364	11.7	31	W4DL	1.49
MCAN	64	16.3	0	0.0	4	W3YWK	0.00
NFAN	1248	46.2	445	16.5	27	WA4NDA	0.36
NFPN	1044	33.7	368	11.9	31	AD4BL	0.35
PBCEN	194	48.5	4	1.0	4	KE4CGQ	0.02
PBCTN	658	24.4	29	1.1	27	KE4CGQ	0.04
PCSN	INCOMPLETE REPORT				4	KT4LL	
QFN	792	12.8	601	9.7	62	KA4FZI	0.76
QFNS	225	7.3	98	3.2	31	KC4ZHF	0.44
SEFTN	1374	22.2	369	6.0	62	KD4GR	0.27
SFAN	86	17.2	2	0.4	5	KD4GR	0.02
SPARC	526	17.0	33	1.1	31	N4ZMQ	0.06
SVTN	697	23.2	121	4.0	30	KE4DNO	0.17
SWFTN	373	13.8	42	1.6	27	K4FQU	0.11
TPTN	652	21.0	129	4.2	31	NR2F	0.20
VCTN	347	11.2	140	4.5	31	KE4DNO	0.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3486</b>				<b>AVG</b>		<b>0.26</b>

## SFL BBS Totals - Aug., 1996

Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

BBS	NTS	PERS	BULLETINS	TOT MSG
K0ZXF	0	202	3094	3216
K4VJI	4	304	7394	7702
KB4GBS	3	669	7447	8119
KB4VOL	19	798	8354	9171
KB4WUA	2	246	7121	7369
KC4IBT		-NO REPORT-		
KC4YEK	0	118	3239	3357
KC6VAO	0	76	4510	4586
KD4GR	5	352	7412	7769
KD4INY		-NO REPORT-		
KD4MJV	31	738	7245	8014
KD4MZM		-NO REPORT-		
KD4UBZ		-NO REPORT-		
KD6ZZ	0	164	2845	3009
KE2IX		-NO REPORT-		
KE4BXF		-NO REPORT-		
KE4CRB		-NO REPORT-		
KF4BPX	1	213	5365	5579
KF4HFR		-NO REPORT-		
KF4OJ	0	164	6079	6243
KI4ZJ		-NO REPORT-		
KN4YT	14	409	8506	8929
KO4KS	9	1127	7658	8794
KP4EDL	3	355	7572	7930
KT4DI	6	298	3234	3538
N4AWX	0	880	3284	4164
N4HHP	50	3210	11628	14888
N4JOA	3	150	7113	7266
N4XEO	2	388	5792	6182
W4DPH	43	3514	7295	10852
W4MWP	0	176	7937	8113
W4OT	0	164	5559	5723
W8DUV	30	960	4500	5490
WA2LKI	8	1077	5893	6978
WB2WPA	3	174	4210	4387
WB4MOZ	0	362	7475	7837
WB4TEM	22	470	7900	8392
WD8IBY		-NO REPORT-		
WH6AMX	0	152	65	217 (Satgate)

### NTS TOTAL: 258

Were you away on vacation and your bbs was off all month? That's the only reason I can think of for all the NO REPORTS this month. Pretty sad.

C'mon folks, these reports are IMPORTANT, especially with the current threat to our 2 meter and 440 bands. Let's show them that we USE them... or we might LOSE them!

If you have any questions, or need the software utilities to generate your BBS report, drop me a note with your name, address and size floppy needed. There's no charge. The utilities work with all types of bbs software, except TCP/IP (NOS.)

Remember, North Florida BBS's should send their reports to N4GMU @ N4GMU. South Florida BBS's to KB4VOL @ KB4VOL. Reports MUST be sent on the 1st covering BBS activity for the previous month. Please participate!

73... Bill, KB4VOL @ KB4VOL

ARRL Packet Manager South Florida.

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

October 1996 ♦ SKIP



## Florida HF Nets, Abbreviations, Frequencies and Times

TIME	NET ABBREVIATION AND NAME	FREQ
0655	FPTN Fla. Phone Tfc Net	3940
0730 (SAT)	AIN ARRL Information Net	3940
0730 (SUN)	Knights of the Kilocycle	3910
0730 (SUN)	Fla. Trader's Net	3945
0730 (EX SUN)	Old Goat's Net	3910
0745	Waterway Net	7268
0800 (SAT)	SFAN South Fla. ARES Net	3940
0800 (TUES)	Buckaroo Tfc Net	7248
0800	SOUTHCARS	7251
0830	GN Gator Net	3651/7061
0900 (EX SUN)	NFAN North Fla. ARES Net	3950
0900 (SUN)	Swap Net	7275
1000 (WED)	Swap Net	7251
1145	FMTN Fla. Midday Tfc Net	7247.5
1330 (SUN)	FSARA Fla. Shrine Am Radio Ass'n	7236 +/-QRM
1500 (SUN)	QCWA Qtrr Cent. Wireless Ass'n	14347
1630	FPON Fla. Public Opns Net	3908
1700	TPTN Tropical Phone Tfc Net	3940/7243
1730	FMSN Fla. Medium Speed Tfc Net	3651/7061
1800	FAST/E South Fla. Tfc Net (Early)	3940
1830/1930	NFPN North Fla. Phone Net	3950
1900	Martin County Ragchew Net	3985
1900	QFN/E All Fla. CW Tfc Net (Early)	3651/7061
1900 (SUN)	Sailfish Net - West Palm Beach	28425
1900 (MON)	Manatee County ARES Net	28450
1900 (TUES)	Pinellas County ARES Net	28450
1900 (TUES)	Mosquito Net - Orlando Chapter	28333
1900 (WED)	Titusville Mosquito Net	28333
1930 (MON /FRI)	Swap Net	3898
1930 (WED)	Candy's Swap Net	3945
2000	QFNS All Fla. Slow CW Tfc Net	3715
2030 (MON)	Wacky Wingdinger Net (NE Fl)	28390
2030	So. Brevard Tech & Ragchew Net	29200
2030 (MON)	ENTIN Everglades Novice/Tech Net	28375
2200	QFN/L All Fla. CW Tfc Net (Late)	3651
2230	FAST/L South Fla. Tfc Net (Late)	3940

### PLEASE SENT CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO:

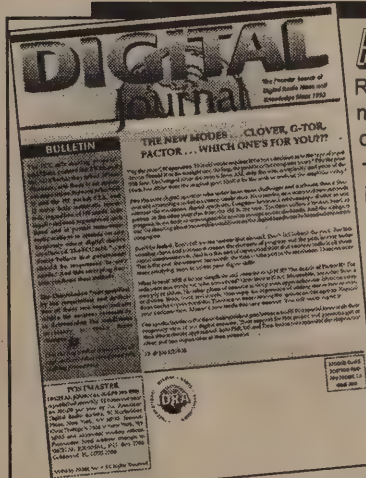
Bill Britton, KB4VOL  
8703 S.E. Jardin St.  
Hobe Sound, FL 33455  
By Packet: KB4VOL @ KB4VOL

## NFL BBS Totals - Aug., 1996

Compiled by Dave Sutherland/N4GMU

CALL	BUL	PERS	NTS	TOT
AA4RU	7485	667	15	8167
K4GBB	4129	306	12	4447
K4OZS				
KB4T	1517	88	0	1605
KE4COV				
N4GMU	1377	798	26	2201
KB4FEA	5889	103	1	5993
N4JTS	3813	662	8	4483
N0ZO	83	3810	137	4030
WB4NOD	6065	408	9	6482
N8NEU	4596	50	0	4646
WN4IIV	7161	639	7	7807
WX4J	66	835	533	1434
W4WEB	7196	180	4	7380
KC4HQS				

Total NTS traffic for NFL: 752



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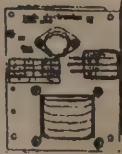
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## Problems With Your PC?

If you need help with Windows, major software packages, the Internet, or just about anything else related to PCs, check out this page. The computer science majors at California State University, Long Beach, will answer your questions for free, across the Internet. They say, "We offer this assistance free of charge. Basically because it would look good on a resume, and because we like helping others." World Wide Web: <http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Park/3641>

## One-Stop Source For Collegiate Information

This site has hundreds of links to all sorts of collegiate home pages. You can look at lists of universities, graduate programs, majors, admissions, international study, university departments, staff, collegiate sports, sciences, and more. There are also several search engines devoted to the subject. World Wide Web: <http://www.collegiate.net/>

## Boston Symphony Orchestra

The BSO has its own home page with details of performances, open rehearsals, details of venues, performances at the Tanglewood Music Center, and performances and events of the Boston Pops. Information about available recordings is also listed. World Wide Web: <http://www.bso.org/>

## Science News

You can get the latest news from the world of science at this site. A recent edition included news on a new fat substitute, how coffee plantations can help local wildlife, the latest research into Tourette syndrome, a new study of Jupiter's atmosphere, plus features. World Wide Web: <http://www.sciencenews.org/>

## Windows 95 Tips And More

Users of the Microsoft Windows 95 operating system should check out Maximinity, an "ezine" of the system. Features include extensive hints and tips, support, shell enhancements, downloads, setup problems and solutions, cool sites, and more. World Wide Web: <http://www.serve.com/maximinity/Across America - North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio>

## Photo Galleries Online

Here you can find a collection of photo gallery links, organized by country, to Web sites that have nature-, wildlife-, and history-related images. The service is growing and is attempting to take in as many countries in the world as possible. World Wide Web: <http://www.sentex.net/~mszane/ippg/index.html>

## Persian Gulf News

Clarinet, the world's leading Internet news distribution service, is making the latest news from the Persian Gulf available free of charge on its Web service. Check for stories from Clarinet contributors such as Reuter and UPI. Nando.net is also running a special section with the latest

news from around the world. World Wide Web: <http://www.clari.net/Samples World Wide Web: http://www2.nando.net/newsroom/nt/moreiraq.html>

## Best Of The Net?

According to judges, users, and Your Personal Net, CyberMad, Crayon, and TerraQuest are the best of the net. The titles were handed out as YPN awarded Web sites in Entertainment, News and Money, and Living categories. Online pop-culture magazine CyberMad was judged best entertainment site, customized news and financial information service Crayon was best for news, and adventure travel site Terraquest was tops in travel.

World Wide Web: <http://www.ypn.com/>

World Wide Web: <http://www.cybermad.com/>

World Wide Web: <http://www.crayon.net/>

World Wide Web: <http://www.terraquest.com/>

## In The News - Children And Tobacco

The US Government Printing Office is making available online the full text of the Food and Drug Administration's final rule regarding children and tobacco. The document was published at the end of last week and can be found online at the addresses below. Access to final rules from the FDA concerning regulation of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products are also available from Counterpoint, free, for the next two weeks only. World Wide Web: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fda/](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fda/) Anonymous FTP: [ftp://fedbbs.access.gpo.gov/fda\\_fr/](ftp://fedbbs.access.gpo.gov/fda_fr/) World Wide Web: <http://www.counterpoint.com/>

## Cruel Site Of The Day

"Cruel Site of the Day presents a daily link to the world of the perturbed, peeved, pensive, and postal," as the Web site says. Here you can find links to pages as diverse, and funny, as "Giving Someone the Finger at the House of Representatives," "Mousecapades, the Untold Horror," "Even Less Than Less Than Zero," and "Complete Idiot's Guide to Depression for Dummies." Updated daily. World Wide Web: <http://www.cruel.com/>

## Discovering Where To Catch The Big Ones

A new fishing database has been set up on the Internet. Its 3,000 pages enable anglers to discover some of their local fishing spots or find out where the best catches can be had. General angling advice and information is also online. World Wide Web: <http://www.where-to-fish.com/>

## US Consumer Product Safety Commission

The official home page of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission has a large amount of information for the American consumer. You can find an area of up-to-date news, a library of publications and a search engine to quickly find information anywhere in the entire site.

Over three months of product recall information is also available. World Wide Web: <http://www.cpsc.gov/>

## American Newspeak

This online e-zine is described as "a satirical news journal celebrating the Orwellian face of the 1990s." You can find the top five Newspeak stories and links to older stories. Check the page weekly for a quick fix of the week's top news that you need to know. World Wide Web: <http://www.scn.org/news/newspeak/week.html>



Steve Iezzi, KT4FY

## Buying Computers at the Hamfest.

With the coming cold weather and the arrival of the snowbirds, Hamfest season is upon us. Hamfesting (is this a word???) is one of my favorite parts of Amateur Radio. I've been licensed for five years now, and I've met hundreds of hams. It's at the Hamfest where all of us get together to rag chew in person.

This past month, I spent the weekend at the Melbourne Hamfest. I had a swap table with an attic full of junk (er. Good stuff) for sale and I also spent the weekend as Prize Chairman giving away all kinds of great prizes (I love to make people happy). As I was hunting down connectors and cable for my home QTH antenna upgrade, many were hunting down computer parts. And so, it wasn't a surprise that friends tracked me down with some computer part in their hand saying "What is it?" or "How do I use it" or "I paid whatever, did I get a good buy?" I don't mind helping, especially since I was looking for antenna parts.

So, what computer stuff did I see this year?

Motherboards, motherboards, lots of motherboards. Great prices, too. Motherboards for 486 processors were as low as \$28 used and \$40 new. The new ones were in a pile and you had to pick through to get all the parts. But, there were some great deals to be had. Pentium boards, PCI and all, were as low as \$65. Some even sported the new Triton VX chipset. Processor prices were at an all time low. 486SX chips were \$8. Faster DX chips ranged from \$18 to \$36. Pentium chips are under \$100. AMD K5 chips with Pentium performance were as low as \$59.

Hard drive prices are great too. I saw a brand new 2 Gigabyte drive go for \$250. 28.8K modems are under \$100 and I bought a 14.4K modem with an integrated sound card for less than \$50. What a steal!

Memory prices are down to the lowest ever as 16 Meg SIMMs were under \$80. Unfortunately, with the rush to get boxes built for Christmas, memory is on it's way back up.

CD ROM drives were everywhere. Double speed drives were as low as \$15. Quads were under \$50.

Business at computer vendor booths was brisk as everyone was taking advantage of the low prices. Trading was busy as well. Most of these new motherboards use the new 72 pin SIMM memory sticks. The old 30 pin SIMMs are becoming obsolete and those who want to upgrade an old motherboard need old memory to do it.

Processor upgrades are more complicated as well. Up until about two years ago, all motherboards used 5 volts for all their logic. Even the first Pentium chip ran at 5 volts. However, it was a poor performer and a bad buy today as the parts ran at 60 or 66 megahertz and were blazing hot. Heat sinks for these chips were several inches tall and required a larger box, power supply and fan for cooling. Full length cards wouldn't fit because the chip and heatsink was too tall. Second generation Pentiums ran at 3.3 volts along with the DX4 clock tripling 486 chips. These devices ran much cooler but required a jumper and a special on-board regulator for the extra voltage. Now, vendors use any one of 3.3 volts, 3.45 volts and even 3.6 volts for processor power. The new Cyrix 686 chips are very fast but require up to 7 amps of

low voltage power. Earlier motherboards could only provide about 4 amps at the low voltage. Motherboards that are Cyrix compatible should have much larger power supplies.

There are three kinds of memory, Fast page (the original), Extended Data Out (EDO) and now Synchronous DRAM (SDRAM) and three kinds of SIMMs

All of these choices require jumpers on the board or settings in the BIOS so installation is more complex and device compatibility can be tricky.

As a general rule of thumb, the newer boards support the widest range of devices and memory. These would be my first choice if I was buying. If I found an older board with support for 5 volt CPUs and nothing else, the Cyrix 486-80 with the big green heat sink is a best buy for the CPU. This part is screamer easily besting the Intel and AMD version of the same speed.

Older memory, especially the nine chip SIMMs are more expensive than 72 pin SIMMs, enough to justify buying a new motherboard.

New boards have built in serial, parallel, floppy and hard drive interfaces and the hard drives have logical block addressing to 4 gigabytes. Older boards can only address drives up to 528 megabytes. Software fixes for this limitation work fine but require a special floppy disk to access your drive. This complicates recovery of data if you ever have a hard disk crash. BIOS upgrades are available for old boards but these can cost as much as the new motherboard. Now is a great time to upgrade that shack box. Memory is cheap and competition has forced processor prices down as well.

Go for it at the next Hamfest.

Steve

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# Project HAARP Unveiled

## Is Ham Radio about to get another Woodpecker?

By Carl Houston, Jr., N4GJM

There has been a lot of controversy recently about a DoD project in Alaska, as reported in several investigative programs including "the Paranormal Borderline" and others. The speculation has been from mild to bizarre as to what the function of the project will be. It has been thought to be for military war weaponry on the planet, to kill invaders from outer space, and to break up a huge meteor that is destined to strike the Earth in the near future. A little research has turned up the following explanation and the intended project parameters, all made public by the DoD and the project coordinators.

HAARP (High frequency Active Auroral Research Program) is to be a major Arctic facility for upper atmospheric and solar-terrestrial research. Scheduled for completion in 2002, HAARP is being built on a DoD-owned site near Gakona, Alaska. Principal instruments include a high power, high-frequency (HF) phased array radio transmitter (known as the Ionospheric Research Instrument, or IRI), used to stimulate small, well-defined volumes of ionosphere, and an ultra-high frequency (UHF) incoherent scatter radar (ISR), used to measure electron densities, electron and ion temperatures, and Doppler velocities in the stimulated region and in the natural ionosphere. To further the scientific capabilities and usefulness of the IRI and ISR, HAARP is supporting the design and installation of the latest in modern geophysical research instruments, including an HF ionosonde, ELF and VLF receivers, magnetometers, riometers, a LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) and optical and infrared spectrometers and cameras which will be used to observe the complex natural variations of Alaska's ionosphere as well as to detect artificial effects produced by the IRI.

Ionospheric research facilities have been in continuous use since the 1950's to investigate fundamental physical principles which govern the earth's ionosphere, so that present and future transmission technologies may take into account the complexities of the ionosphere. At the present time the US operates two ionospheric research sites, one in Puerto Rico, near the Arecibo Observatory, the other (known as HIPAS) in Alaska near Fairbanks. Both of these employ active and passive radio instrumentation similar to that being built at HAARP.

The Value of Ionospheric Research, according to the DoD, is as follows: The ionosphere begins approximately 35 miles above the earth's surface and extends out beyond 500 miles. In contrast to the dense atmosphere close to the earth which is composed almost entirely of neutral gas, the thin ionosphere contains both neutral gas and charged particles known as ions and electrons. This ionized medium can distort, reflect and absorb radio signals, and thus can affect numerous civilian and military communications, navigation, surveillance and remote sensing systems in many varied ways. For example, the performance of a satellite-to-ground communication link is affected by the ionosphere through which the signals pass. AM broadcast programs, which in the daytime can be heard only within a few tens of miles from the station, at night sometimes can be heard hundreds of miles away, due to the change from poor daytime to good nighttime reflection from the ionosphere. A long-range HF communication link which uses multiple hops or reflections

from the ionosphere, often experiences amplitude fading caused by interference between signals which have traveled from the transmitter to the receiver by two (or more) different ionospheric paths.

Since the sun's radiation creates and maintains the ionosphere, sudden variations in this radiation such as those caused by solar flares can affect the performance of radio systems. Sometimes the changes are sufficient to induce large transient currents in electric power transmission grids, causing widespread power outages. Lightning is known to cause substantial heating and ionization density enhancement in the lower ionosphere, and there are indications that ground-based HF transmitters, including radars and strong radio stations, also modify the ionosphere and influence the performance of systems whose paths traverse the modified region. Perhaps the most famous example of the latter is the "Luxembourg" effect, first observed in 1933. In this case a weak Swiss radio station appeared to be modulated with signals from the powerful Luxembourg station, which was transmitting at a completely different frequency. Music from the Luxembourg station was picked up at the frequency of the Swiss station.

The proliferation of space-based civilian and military systems whose performance depends on transionospheric paths encourages not only good characterization and monitoring of the ionospheric state, but also an examination of what controlled local modification of the ionosphere, using ground HF transmitters, could do for and to these systems. Thus, while the HAARP facility is expected to provide significant advancements in understanding ionospheric science by stimulating and controlling plasma processes in a tiny localized region within the ionosphere, it also has the potential for significantly affecting the planning and economics of space-based systems.

The Department of Defense (DoD) conducts Arctic research to ensure the development of the knowledge, understanding and capability to meet national defense needs in the Arctic. Interest in ionospheric research at HAARP stems both from the multiplicity of communication, surveillance and navigation systems that have radio paths which pass through the ionosphere, and from the unexplored potential of technological innovations which suggest applications such as detecting underground objects, communicating to great depths in the sea or earth, and generating infrared and optical emissions. Expanding our knowledge about the interactions of signals passing through or reflecting from the ionosphere can help to solve future problems in the development of DoD systems, and could as well enhance the utilization of commercial systems which rely on the expedient transfer of real-time communications. The location of the HAARP Facilities is at Milemarker 11.3 on the Tok highway. The geographic coordinates of the IRI array are approximately 62 deg 23.5'N, 145 deg 8.8'W.

Basically, the IRI is what is known as a phased array transmitter. It is designed to transmit a narrow beam of high power radio signals in the 2.8 to 10 MHz frequency range. Its antenna is to be constructed on a 1000' x 1200' gravel pad (about 33 acres). There are to be 180 towers, 72' in height



mounted on thermopiles spaced 80' apart in a 12 x 15 rectangular grid, each of which supports near its top, two pairs of crossed dipole antennas, one for the low band (2.8 to 7 MHz), the other for the high band (7 to 10 MHz). To prevent possible damage to the antenna towers or harm to large animals, an exclusion fence has been constructed around the array. An elevated ground screen attached at the 15' level acts as a reflector for the antenna array while allowing vehicular access underneath to the 30 environmentally-controlled transmitter shelters spaced throughout the array. Each shelter contains 6 pairs of 10 kW transmitters, for a total of  $6 \times 30 \times 2 \times 10 \text{ kW} = 3600 \text{ kW}$  available for transmission. The transmitters can be switched to drive either the low or high band antennas. Electric prime power is to be obtained from six, 2500 kW generators, each driven by a 3600 hp diesel engine. From a control room within the Operations Center the transmissions from each dipole are adjusted in amplitude and phase so as to form a narrow beam directed upward toward the ionosphere. The beam is partially absorbed, at an altitude which depends on the HF frequency, in a small volume a few hundred meters thick, the remainder either reflecting back toward the earth or continuing through the ionosphere into space. The intensity of the HF beam in the ionosphere is less than 3 microwatts per  $\text{cm}^2$ , tens of thousands of times less than the Sun's natural electromagnetic radiation reaching the earth and hundreds of times less than the variations in intensity of the Sun's natural ultraviolet (UV) energy which creates the ionosphere.

Because the IRI beam will be directed upward, rather than toward the horizon, radio field strengths at ground level, including directly under the antenna array, are calculated to be smaller than Radiofrequency Radiation (RFR) standards allow for human exposure. This is possible because the individual transmitters are spaced apart over 33 acres so that the concentration of radio fields never exceeds the RFR standards. Radio field strengths on the ground around the array have been measured throughout the evaluation of the Development Prototype during 1995, and show good agreement with the calculations. At the point of closest public access on the Tok Highway, the measured fields are ten-thousand times smaller than permitted by the RFR standards and hundreds of times smaller than typically found near AM broadcast station antennas.

The upward-directed IRI main beam radio fields may have sufficient strength to interfere with electronic equipment in aircraft flying nearby. Therefore, to ensure the safety of all flight operations in the vicinity of HAARP, an aircraft alert radar (AAR) will automatically shut off appropriate transmissions when aircraft are detected either within or approaching a defined safety zone around the facility. Flight tests conducted using a Piper Super Cub demonstrated the capability of the Raytheon radar to detect even very small targets. Ensuring correct operation of the AAR will be a prelude to starting high power transmissions.

Radio Frequency Interference (RFI)... Every radio transmitting facility has the potential to interfere with other radio spectrum users. To determine the likelihood that HAARP's transmissions inadvertently might interfere with Alaskan TV, AM/FM radio, ham radio, animal tracking receivers, cellular phones, satellite links, aircraft navigation and communications equipment, pipeline communications,

or even with HAARP's own sensitive radio receiving equipment, a comprehensive RFI study was conducted. Theory predicted that in several worst-case scenarios, interference may be encountered by some users sharing the RF spectrum. On the other hand, the real world experiences of similar ionospheric research instruments and radar diagnostics employed elsewhere in the world suggest that compatible operations are practical. Included in HAARP's frequency application to the Spectrum planning Subcommittee of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is the commitment to a mitigation program that includes acquisition of state-of-the-art transmitters with stringent requirements for minimizing out-of-band transmissions; proper orientation of the IRI array and adoption of operating procedures, including beam steering, to minimize array sidelobes; employing special techniques such as waveform shaping, filtering and antenna null placement; and working with affected spectrum users, if any, to reach mutually agreeable solutions. A local phone number (907) 822-5497, permits anyone believing they have interference from HAARP to contact the Gakona site operations center.

Completing the Development Prototype testing is the primary goal of the current operations at HAARP. Initial DP testing began on 15 December 1994. Five additional tests have occurred of the DP, the last ending on 20 November 1995. Future milestones include: completing the DP evaluations by the end of 1996 and filling the DP antenna array with an additional 30 transmitter-pairs by summer 1997. The facility may be able to participate in scientific research activities by late in 1996. During science campaigns the researchers would depend on the local economy for subsistence and other necessities. Both on-and off-site diagnostic instruments are providing data on the natural high latitude ionosphere and supporting research at the HIPAS facility near Chena Hot Springs. Currently these include a magnetometer, ELF/VLF receivers, an imaging riometer, a 30 MHz riometer and a spectrum monitor.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental impact statement (EIS) evaluated the consequences of constructing and operating the HAARP research facility in Alaska. The EIS discusses impacts on such diverse topics as electromagnetic and radio frequency interference, vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, air quality, subsistence, cultural resources, atmosphere and others. All applicable state and federal regulations for construction and operation of the HAARP facility are being complied with.

Any individual seeking additional information about HAARP, or wishing to provide comments regarding HAARP may contact:

Office of Public Affairs Air Force Phillips Laboratory  
3550 Aberdeen Ave S.E. Kirtland AFB NM 87117-5776

-- or --

Mr. Ralph Scott 3rd Wing Public Affairs Division  
Elmendorf AFB AK 99506 Phone: (907) 552-8151

Questions of a technical nature can be sent to  
[askhaarp@itd.nrl.navy.mil](mailto:askhaarp@itd.nrl.navy.mil)

Internet home page:

<http://server5550.itd.nrl.navy.mil/haarp.html>



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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, U.S.A., 1996 SEP 13 (NB)-  
-- By Jim Mallory. You can find a lot of things on the Internet, and now one of those is an eye test.

The unique service is offered by Neoptx Inc. the makers of OPTX 20/20, peel-and-stick plastic lenses that the company said turns standard sunglasses into instant reading sunglasses.

The Web site is called Neoptx Eye Site, and it lets consumers conduct an actual online reading eye test without leaving their home or office.

The company said people who need help reading or seeing things up close can find the lens magnification strength they need to purchase.

Neoptx spokesperson Keala Jones told Newsbytes there are two models of the magnification lenses, which come in nine different degrees of magnification. The regular OPTX 20/20 peel-off lenses have a retail price of \$25, while the larger Magna Vue lenses, designed for use on safety glasses, have a suggested retail price of \$30.

The company acknowledges that the Web site is also a marketing tool. "In order to make our Web site both valuable to consumers and profitable for Neoptx, we knew that we had to create more than just an electronic brochure," said Larry Laks, Neoptx vice president. "In addition to telling consumers about our products and providing a forum for feedback, we wanted to give them something useful that they would revisit periodically."

Many companies are looking for ways to make their Web sites unique, and the rewards can be big. While marketing via the Internet is still in its infancy, the Wall street Jour-

nal reported recently that there are more than 100,000 retailers on the Web and they are spending as much as \$1 million each on their Web sites.

So far return on that investment has been poor. The Journal reported that average sales per site grossed just over \$3,000 last year.

Neoptx hopes its online reading eye test will put them well above average.

Here's how the eye test works. The online consumer selects a diopter between +1 and +3. A diopter is a measure of magnification. Text appears on the screen that appears as though it were being looked at through lenses of the selected diopter magnification. The consumer changes the diopter setting until the text looks clear.

Neoptx said finding the amount of magnification you need can be useful when buying reading glasses in a drug or discount store or when you order a set of Neoptx's OPTX 20/20 lenses. Ordering can be done online from your nearest retailer.

In addition to the eye test the site offers information about eyes, lens installation instructions, a handy ZIP Code search to locate the nearest OPTX dealer, a question and answer page and links to other eye-related Web pages.

Neoptx's Web site is located at <http://www.neoptx.com>

(19960913/Press contact: Gayle Cloud, Cloud Communications for Neoptx, 206-441-3077; Public contact: Neoptx, 206-441-3077 for video and lens sample or 800-344-2020 to order/NEOPTX960913/PHOTO)



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# Air Force MARS Report

During the first week in September, the Region 2 MARS traffic net, 2S1, and others in the states that were affected by hurricane Fran were kept open, sometimes round the clock, to coordinate with FEMA in preparing for the onslaught of the storm. The nets remained on the alert for almost 72 hours preceding the hurricane's landfall, providing the emergency teams that were hurrying to emplace their equipment valuable communications assistance. The coastal areas that were affected by the storm were very unfortunate to sustain the loss of life and property caused by Fran. It probably could have been even worse, but thankfully was not. There were many MARS affiliates who answered the call and planned to stay available for as long as needed. Thanks to all for a job well done.

\* \* \*

The USAF MARS Internet Web Page has been upgraded recently and now has Region 2 information readily available. It is updated with the latest MARS broadcasts, the Administrative Net notes, gateways to other services, and other information. John Cox, AFF2K, is responsible for this service. The Internet address for the web page is <http://www.GroupZ.net/~jcox>. There is also a function to leave your suggestions and comments for John and others. The packet revolution is soon to sweep MARS! As soon as all details can be worked out, and all interested members can get equipped and packet-capable, there will be more intense packet activity on both HF and VHF with the thought of having a system so complete that it will rival or exceed Internet E/mail. At least that is our ultimate goal in the MARS system.

This elaborate system will, of course, include the Army and Navy MARS services which will give approximately 10,000 potential stations for the system. We cannot predict the exact time that this will be available, but it is in the process of deep planning at this time. We will, for now, continue to use Internet e/mail as we have been. As we have stated before, the Internet e/mail system is not replacing any radio circuits in the MARS networks, but is an additional useful means of communication for liaison and coordination due to its speed and reliability.

\* \* \*

More on Emergency

**Carl Houston, Jr., AFF2P**  
Training...The traffic load has diminished somewhat on all nets recently, and MARS is planning a number of simulated exercises to initiate more traffic handling training, especially morale and welfare traffic under emergency conditions. Periodic training and honing our communications and message service skills will prepare us for the day we will be pressed into service assisting FEMA and/or our own state EMAs in the event of a declared emergency. All modes are to be utilized in these exercises. Packet and other teletype modes will be used with the normal modes, VHF, UHF, and the main mode, HF. The operating frequencies will be announced at the beginning of all exercises. All affiliates are requested to have a good antenna system to ensure they can operate on these frequencies, which will usually be in the 10 MHz (day) and 5 MHz (night) part of the spectrum. All states are in the process of updating or appointing emergency coordinators, who will maintain close contact with the Region 2 Coordinator, AFF2E, during periods of simulated or actual emergencies. Emergency communications is a primary function of MARS, and there will be quite a lot of interaction with the other services during these tests.

\* \* \*

We all have noticed poor to good propagation on our 2S1 and other nets recently. This problem must be overcome to communicate throughout the entire region, although the only thing we can do, as an operator, is to make sure our equipment is installed, maintained and tuned properly, one of the main things is an antenna system that will attenuate precisely on the assigned net frequencies. The propagation, as it is as of now, is 'iffy' at best. We are presently in the declining side of sunspot cycle #22. The peak of good propagation has passed, and we are nearing the next lowest sunspot number (SSN), due in 1997. We do not have much to look forward to until the turn of the next century in the 3-30 MHz portion of the bands, when SSNs of a greater number are expected, kicking off the best part of cycle #23. There will be times of fair to good propagation during this time, however. During the monthly sun rotational cycle, every 27 days, there will be some solar flares and spots turned toward the Earth, enhancing signals, even if briefly. As for now

we can only hope for the best, especially if we are needed to assist in any emergency communications.

\* \* \*

**New Members....**Add to our roster new member AFT2GT, Dennis R. Powell, 403 Larkwood Drive, Montgomery, AL, Amateur callsign KT4NB. Dennis is a retired USAF Colonel and pilot and promises to be another outstanding Alabama member. There are several other members in various phases of their training and will soon be ready for the traffic nets. Tom Taylor, AFF2T, will be advising all SMDs and others when the training classes for new members are scheduled.

\* \* \*

The MARS community in Memphis, TN has lost one of its most revered members. On Saturday, September 7th, Art Smith, AFA2AM, K4KXA, of Germantown, became a silent key. Art, a retired Air Force Major, school teacher, and former State MARS Director for Tennessee, passed away after a brief illness. He will be missed.

\* \* \*

How does he do it? Guice Johnson, AFF2D, has again made the latest Region 2 conference a big hit with his door prizes. Guice always manages to excel in this endeavor, and the recent Hendersonville conference was well endowed with quality items for lucky attendees that he somehow managed to "appropriate" from major vendors.

We sincerely thank not only Guice for his efforts, but the contributing companies for their generous donations. They were: Buckmaster, 1 HamCall CD Rom; SGC, 1 PowerClear; RT Systems, 3 SAM Certificates, 1 AZDEN Handheld 2mAZ-21; CQ Magazine, Subscriptions; 73 Magazine, Subscription; Florida Skip Magazine, 3 Subscriptions, 1 Case of Magazines; Ham Radio Outlet, 2 QRZ Callsign CDs, 2 MFJ Dual Clocks, 1 International and 1 Domestic Callbook; Walnut Creek, 5 QRZ CDROMs; AFF2D (Guice, himself), 2 MARS wrist watches; MFJ, 2 PROH Packet Handbooks, 2 Packet Beginner's Guides, 2 24hr Clocks.

**AIM HIGH! DISCLAIMER:** This is not an official United States Air Force release, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Air Force or the MARS.



# Boca Firm is 56 kbps Modem Leader

BOCA RATON, FLORIDA, U.S.A., 1996 SEP 12 (NB) -- By Bob Woods. Boca Research Inc. [NASDAQ:BOCI] said it is not only joining the pack of modem manufacturers and technology companies developing 56 kilobits-per-second (Kbps) analog modem technology, but it intends to lead it as well. Other companies already announcing the speedy technology include Rockwell International [NYSE:ROK] and Hayes Microcomputer, while US Robotics [NASDAQ:USRX] still says it is not announcing anything on the subject, despite Wall Street rumors saying it is readying a launch.

Both the Hayes and Boca 56Kbps modems will use technology announced by Rockwell International, covered elsewhere today by Newsbytes. The new chip set technology will take advantage of the high-speed digital connection to the telephone network that Internet service providers (ISPs) and corporations already have in place, Newsbytes notes.

Rockwell said it plans to show the 56Kbps technology at the huge Comdex Fall trade show in Las Vegas this November. Boca spokesperson Gale Blackburn told Newsbytes she expects her company to have a 56Kbps modem on the market soon after Comdex Fall, because of Rockwell's close relationship with Boca.

Blackburn also said Boca intends to "lead the pack" in 56Kbps technology, because of its ties with Rockwell. Boca said it has a "close" relationship to Rockwell because both companies have together developed other technologies involving modems over the years.

A major difference between Boca's and US Robotics' offerings could rest with the core technology itself, Blackburn said. The Rockwell technology might differ from US Robotics', she said, so there might be two different 56 Kbps technologies when all is said and done.

But Blackburn stressed that, since US Robotics has not officially announced a 56Kbps product yet, it is difficult to say whether the two technologies are different.

A US Robotics spokesperson reiterated to Newsbytes today that it does not comment on rumors or speculation of any kind, and that no new

56Kbps products are slated to be announced in the coming days -- the same reaction it had when rumors surfaced on Wall Street Monday (Newsbytes, Sep. 10, 1996).

But the spokesperson did confirm to Newsbytes that US Robotics does develop its own core technology. Also, a spokesperson said earlier this week that US Robotics does not believe that 33.6Kbps, the current fastest analog modem speed, is the speed limit for analog modems.

Hayes announced its plans to build a 56Kbps modem late yesterday, which company officials said was scheduled to hit the market sometime in 1997 (Newsbytes, Sep. 11, 1996). The modem maker, which recently emerged from bankruptcy, also said it would migrate its current Optima, Accura, and Century modems to the 33.6Kbps platform by the end of September.

Wall Street's reaction to the new analog technology was to send stocks climbing upward nearly as fast as mo-

dem speeds are climbing. US Robotics stock was up again this morning, rising \$2.875 to \$59.75. The Skokie, Illinois-based company's shares have been on an upward trend most of this week.

Boca's stock also climbed more than ten percent in trading this morning. At 12:15 AM EDT, Boca shares stood at \$11.50, up \$1.75.

Hayes is a private company, and does not trade stock on Wall Street, Newsbytes notes.

Technology developer Rockwell International's shares were up only \$0.25 at \$54.375 this morning. But modem sales make up a bigger chunk of revenue for US Robotics, Hayes, and Boca than for Rockwell's, Newsbytes notes.

(19960912/Press Contacts: Gale Blackburn, Boca Research, 561-997-8621; Angela Hooper, Hayes, 770-840-9200; Laurie Lentz, US Robotics, 847-982-5230)



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# Army MARS Report

Lorraine S. Matthew, AAA9PR

While the Western and Central Area Army MARS members are kept busy reporting the wildfires, floods, multi-state power outages and other potential emergency situations, Florida Army MARS members watch very closely as the hurricanes drift northward along their Atlantic shores. They, too, are prepared and experienced in sending the all-important Essential Elements of Information (EEI) reports to the Directorate of Military Support (DOMS). This function allows DOMS and the other agencies with whom the information is shared to be ready with the right support at the right time for any emergency which might arise. Is this mission of MARS important? It is vitally important -- so important that a number of EEI reports have gone up to the Office of the Secretary of Defense and higher. This information can also be categorized as Elements of Early Information (again EEI). The key is that the information is Early and is accurate, coming from those members on the scene or who are in the position of being able to report timely information from the scene.

All Floridians can help in this effort. If anyone notices anything happening that is unusual, call a MARS member or an Amateur radio operator (HAM) who would, most likely, know a MARS member and who would be able to take the report. Does this report have to be formatted properly? Does the public have the format? No. All anyone needs to do is to report what he sees or what he knows is happening. The MARS member will do all the formatting and transmitting that is needed. The hurricane season is not over yet. The resulting potential for flooding and for other emergencies if all the hurricanes come in further north still remains for all of Florida. Hurricane Fran generated super high tides and powerful undertows and other havoc as she passed by. With all Florida citizens on the alert, the state can be well served during any crisis.

During the period of 19-23 August 1996, the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) conducted an emergency exercise based upon a simulated catastrophic earthquake that struck parts of six states in the Midwest and Southern United States. All Southeast states should be aware of the New

Madrid Fault which parallels the Mississippi River. Should such an earthquake occur along this fault, millions of people would be impacted including the Southeast states.

As part of the exercise, NDMS requested MARS assistance to provide a radio link between the Global Patient Movement Requirements Center (GPMRC) located at Scott AFB, IL and the Joint Operations Center (JOC) located at Kelly AFB, San Antonio, TX. In that process, MARS emergency communications included radio links between an Air Force MARS station located adjacent to Scott AFB, the Army MARS Central Area HF/MARS Gateway station at Fort Sam Houston, TX, the Army MARS stations located at the JOC and the San Antonio Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Volunteer Army MARS members operated the stations at both the JOC and the OEM.

The resulting Army and Air Force MARS stations working together successfully provided NDMS requested emergency communications support. This NDMS exercise represents another fine example of joint service interoperability. It also points out the desired expectations of disaster support agencies with whom Army MARS works. This new thrust toward joint service interoperability and inter-agency interoperability with Army MARS carries very positive implications for Florida. No longer will disaster support be disjointed because of the lack of interoperational capability. Interoperational capability and proficiency are the types of operations being emphasized in all Army MARS training and exercises. Great strides are being made in these areas to the benefit of all people everywhere in the country.

While Army MARS develops its primary mission of providing emergency communications support, Army MARS' morale and welfare support function for military personnel and their families and friends does continue. A letter received by a Florida Army MARS operator underscores a misconception held by the public and by some of the military personnel that this part of the Army MARS mission has been abandoned. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The letter reads in part, "Thank you very much for your phone call and copy of the MARS Radiogram my son sent to me from Korea. Your voluntarism to aid the military families is very much appreciated. I was not aware that MARS Radiogram service was still in operation."

All the MARS organizations continue to serve military personnel with the famous FREE MARSgram message service at home and abroad. These messages form a basis for good morale in the hearts of the soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines as well as in the hearts of their families and loved ones. Generals have said that such a boost to morale is invaluable in both peace and war. It is up to all of us to support the morale our military personnel. Let everyone know that the MARSgram program is alive and well and does not cease when hostilities cease. Indeed, peacetime morale is often more difficult to maintain. Give this important function your support. MARSgram word count has increased to 50 words and this should help the senders to say what they would like to say and the recipients very happy with all the news that they can receive.

As of 1 October 1996, the structural nature of Army MARS has changed. As of this date, Mr. Billy Bateman/AAA0W who has served as the CONUS Army MARS Director and as Western Area Director retired from many years of government service. As a result, Army MARS will no longer be structured into three operating areas. There will be two areas -- Eastern as now constituted and Western which combines the former Central and Western Areas. We wish Mr. Bateman all the best in his retirement. Perhaps we should warn him that retirement life is often busier than any working life ever was. We welcome Kathy Harrison who remains the Eastern Area Army MARS Director and Kathy Edwards who is now the Western Area Army MARS Director. This realignment of Areas also is indicative of the continuing of the downsizing trend in the military personnel structure.

*Army MARS continues to march proud, professional, ready.*



## Terrorism Bill Cloaks Intrusion

WASHINGTON, DC, U.S.A., 1996 SEP 13 (NB) -- By Bill Pietrucha. President Clinton's proposed anti-terrorism measures, although appearing on the surface to be an appropriate move to protect the public, "is in fact a dangerous intrusion into the private lives of any American who chooses to travel by air," according to Karen Coyle, a member of the Board of Directors of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility. President Clinton's September 9 proposals included a new "bomb detection plan" that would make use of computer files to identify potential terrorists or other suspicious individuals.

The computer system, she said, would use information about passengers to determine which luggage should be examined by explosives detection equipment, and would combine information "which airlines already have, such as your flying habits, with information from other sources."

Although Clinton did not specify the other sources, Coyle said "they would likely include things like financial records and family information from commercial and government databases."

Coyle warned that "employees of the airlines would be able to access information about all of us that we would not normally reveal to them if asked."

"Imagine that you arrive at your airport and are asked your marital status, annual income, and how long you've been at your present job," Coyle said.

Coyle said that after years of experience with computer databases, the Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility "feels that no such system should be developed without full public discussion of the risks inherent in such a system."

The risks, she said, include the administration's plan to keep the information in the database secret. "While there may be justification for keeping the exact profiles used to select potential terrorists a secret," she said, "trying to hide the nature of the database is likely to be of very little benefit in identifying suspects, and poses a grave privacy risk."

The main consequence of this secrecy, she said, "will be to thwart the public scrutiny necessary to ensure that the government doesn't go beyond its mandate of collecting information on millions of its citizens."

Coyle also warned that the information contained in the database would be inaccurate, as many credit history databases are.

"Studies have shown that as many of 20 percent of the records in a credit database contain significant errors," she said.

Coyle also voiced her concern over the potential for misuse of the database by airlines, airline employees, and even law enforcement agencies, and that "the system may not be successful in identifying potential terrorists."

"While we are encouraged that the Clinton administration has recognized the privacy issues involved with the proposed system, the Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility still is concerned that in the rush to do something about terrorists, the very real privacy issues will be overlooked."

(19960913/Press Contact: Karen Coyle, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, tel 510-987-0567; email kcoyle@ix.netcom.com)

## Improved GPS - Cheaper Price

SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A., 1996 SEP 12 (NB) -- By Richard Bowers. SIRF Technology Inc. has unveiled its SIRFstar global positioning system (GPS) technology, a low-cost system that will provide instant location information, enabling users to ascertain where they are anywhere in the world using their portable PCs, cellular phones, or other hand-held devices. SIRF claims an improved, but less expensive, product that will lower the cost to the consumer of a complete GPS system to under \$200.

Developed by the US Department of Defense, GPS technology was initially used for military applications, and in recent years, for car navigation systems. GPS satellites transmit their signals using spread-spectrum technology at 1.6 gigahertz (GHz), enabling low-power receivers that are small in size.

However, several factors have prevented the emergence of a strong, consumer-oriented market for GPS products and applications. One is interference in terrestrial environments, where trees, buildings, and tunnels can obstruct GPS signals. Another is inaccuracies caused by signal deflection off buildings or other structures, called "multipath signals." Third, reacquisition of the satellite signal has been slow, particularly in urban environments, often taking several seconds.

SIRF says it has developed a patented architecture, called the "SIRFstar architecture," that helps to overcome these obstacles, and enables designers to deploy low-cost GPS capabilities into a wide variety of consumer-oriented products, from car navigation systems to hand-held pocket devices.

According to SIRF Technology, the new product can cut satellite reacquisition time to about one-tenth of a second, as much as 30 times faster than other products on the market. With SingleSat navigation, a SIRF-enabled GPS receiver can continue to obtain positioning information from a single satellite, while other GPS products require at least two or more satellite signals in order to calculate a position, according to the company.

The company also claims that, with its FoliageLock feature, a SIRF-enabled receiver can process GPS signals that are significantly weaker than minimum GPS specifications, providing better navigation under foliage environments.

SIRFstar chips and software will be available in October, and samples are available immediately. The chipset includes the SIRFstar GSP1 and SIRFStar GRF1, and are priced at \$49.95 per pair in quantity.

Speaking to Newsbytes, Kanwar Chadha, a marketing manager with SIRF Technology, said, "Commercializing GPS technology will uncover its untapped potential. With this chipset, a manufacturer can bundle a complete global positioning and mapping system that can retail for under \$200. Our technology should hit the consumer market in the next few months with both a PCMCIA (Personal Computer Memory Card International Association) card, and a car navigation system."

"Our affordable, high-performance GPS technology solution is guaranteed to change the way we live," said to Dado Banatao, chairman of SIRF. "In fact, by as soon as December, you'll be able to use SIRF's GPS technology in your portable computer to locate your next sales appointment, find the fastest route to take, and discover the best burrito place once you get there."

(19960912/Press Contact: Kanwar Chadha, SIRF Technology, 408-737-6607)





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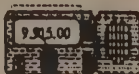
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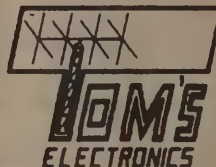
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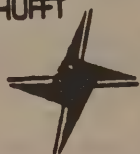
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for information contact

Gerry Skinner, K4LVZ, (ph.) (407) 679-4244  
3311 Ellwood Ct. Winter Park, FL 32792 or  
Jerry Deutscher, KQ4UW, (ph.) (941) 472-5130 or  
Hank Wells, W1TNE, (ph.) (407) 727-1371 or

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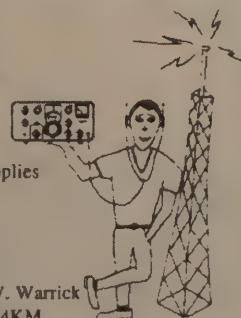
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KK4KM





# Florida Hamfest Update - Sept., 1996

Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

DATE	LOCATION	NOTES			
Oct 5	Miami	FREE! At Univ. of Miami (7am - noon. Raindate Oct 12)	Jan 18	Crystal River	Crystal River Armory
		Parking lot 102 on San Amaro			Talk-on on 146.955
		Talk-in on 146.865			INFO: Bill, KO4ZA (904) 382-5755
		INFO: Bill, WA4TEJ via the repeater	Jan 19	Pinellas Park	Benefit Boy's & Girl's Club
Oct 19	Starke	Bradford County Fairgrounds			7790 61st St North
		U.S. 301 north of SR 100			Talk-in on 147.060
		Talk-in on 145.150			INFO: Mike, KC4TEX (813) 823-4251
		INFO: Dan, K4RVD (904) 475-2695	Feb 1/2	Miami	Dade County Expo Center
Oct 19/20	West Palm Beach	Expo Center @ South FL Fairgrounds			SW 112th Ave & Coral Way
		SR 80 just east of U.S. 441			Talk-in on 146.760 or 146.925
		Talk-in on 147.165	Feb 8	Arcadia	Desoto County Fairgrounds
		INFO: Hal, N4UIT (561) 439-0805			US 17, 1/2 mi south of SR 70
Oct 26	Port St Lucie	Port St Lucie Yacht Club			Talk-in on 147.075
		500 Prima Vista Blvd			INFO: Doug, KN4YT (941) 494-5070
		Talk-in on 146.955	Feb 8	Pensacola	Bayfront Municiple Auditorium
		INFO: Rick, KO4CZ (561) 335-1738			Talk-in on 146.760 & 444.925
Nov 2	Sorrento	Lake Amateur Radio Ass'n (Eustis)	Feb 15/16	Orlando	Central Florida Fairgrounds
	(New Location)	East Lake Chamber of Commerce			4300 W. Colonial Way
		SR 437 (Plymouth-Sorrento Rd)			Talk-in on 146.760
		Talk-in on 147.255			INFO: Ken, KD4JQR (407) 961-2465
		INFO: Tony, KE4NLG (352) 360-1380	Feb 22	Brooksville	VFW Hall in Spring Hill
Nov 9	Titusville	Fox Lake Park			Talk-in on 146.715
		Harrison St west to the park			INFO: Lee, WA3YMV (352) 799-1633
		Talk-in on 146.910/146.970	Mar 1	Zephyrhills	At 3339 Allen Rd.
		INFO: Clyde, K4EOS (407) 267-9375			Talk-in on 145.190
Nov 23/24	Tampa	Florida Expo Park			INFO: Phinney, WB4UMT (813) 788-13
		I-4 & US 301	Mar 15/16	Ft. Walton Beach	Okaloosa County Fairground
		Talk-in on 146.940			1958 Lewis Turner Blvd.
		INFO: Jean Endicot (813) 525-5178			Talk-in on 146.790
Dec 7	Okeechobee	Agriculture Center Bldg	Mar 22	Stuart	FREE! At Martin County Fairgrounds
		on US 441 1.5 mi north of SR 70			A1A south of Stuart
		Talk-in on 147.195			Talk-in on 147.060
		INFO: Al, AD4RZ (941) 467-0516	Mar 22	Sebring	INFO: Dave KE4AMW (561) 288-7100
Dec 7	Ocala	Booster Stadium			National Guard Armory
		N 36th Ave 1 mile N of SR 40			on U.S. 27, 6 mi N of Sebring
		Talk-in on 146.970			Talk-in on 147.270/145.330
		INFO: Mario, N4TSV (352) 245-9514	Mar 29	Fanning Springs	Livestock Pavillion Fairgrounds
Dec 14	Lake City	FL Sports Hall of Fame			SR 26 & US 19
		I-75 exit 82 to US 90 west			Talk-in on ??
		Talk-in on 145.490			INFO: Glenda, K4KRU (904) 542-3033
		INFO: Colen, WA5RKR (904) 755-7969			*****
1997					HELP AVOID CONFLICTS - GET YOUR DATES IN EARLY!
~~~~~					PLEASE SENT CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS AND WHO TO
Jan 4/5	Fort Myers	S.W. Florida Hamfest			CALL FOR INFO!
		Cape Coral American Legion			Packet Address: KB4VOL @ KB4VOL Army MARS Call:
		on 47th Terrace			AAT4RV
		Talk-in on 147.345			Mail: Bill Britton, KB4VOL 8703 S.E. Jardin St. Hobe Sound, FL
		INFO: Jim KQ4OR (941) 997-6423			33455
Jan 11/12	Sarasota	Robards Sports Arena			E-Mail: kb4vol@juno.com
		3000 Fruitville Rd			*****
		Talk-in on 146.910 & 444.925			VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE! LOTS OF HAM INFO PLUS THE
		INFO: Sam, KE4BXF (813) 922-4591			MONTHLY LISTS!
					http://pages.prodigy.com/kb4vol
					*****



# CLASSIFIED

Standard classified ad - 10 cents/word, \$3.00 minimum charge. Commercial classified ad - 15 cents/word, \$5.00 minimum. See submission details below.

**FOR SALE** - EZ Way tower, 45 ft. crankup & fold - \$400.00. Antenna, Hygain Explorer HF, up to 1 kW - \$190.00. Radio desk, 48 inches with slanted main top & 2 shelves above with drawer & door under plus regular wood and metal desk - both \$50.00. Trx cable, 3 lines, OBO; 2 meter J Pole antenna, OBO; dismantled for loading. Conrad Kibler, WB4ARS. Tampa, FL. Ph: 813-933-2850.

**WANTED** - Crank-up, 35' - 40'. Too old to climb - too poor to buy new! P.A. Schelter (W4OYC). 3126 SE 26 St. Okeechobee, FL 34974.

**HAM SHACK** - Available in February 1997, 8' x 10' ham shack attached to 1400 sq. ft. brick home located at 1326 Lawndale Rd., Talahassee FL 32311 (East side off Buck Lake Road). Has 50 ft. tower with four antennas, house has 3BR, 2 Baths, 2-car garage, large corner lot. Close to schools. - \$125,000. Ed, KN4Y. Contact Helen Palagyi for details or appointment to see.

**FOR SALE** - Kenwood TS830S, three filters, extra 6146 tubes, operating & service manuals - \$500.00. Gregg M. Eberman, W2SDV. 2201 Brian Ave., South Daytona, FL 32119. Ph: 904-761-0867.

**FOR SALE** - Yaesu 736R - \$1200.00. Mirage B1016 - \$165.00. Mirage D1010 - \$175.00. Manuals plus shipping. Antennas, pickup only, Butternut HF-6VX - \$95.00. Cushcraft 214-FB - \$55.00. Hygain 215S - \$110.00. HyGain 216S - \$110.00. Manuals. Mosley TA-34XL-W - \$300.00. Aluma tower, 2-sec. crankup - \$300.00. Fred, AA4FG. Ph: 813-849-1224.

**FOR SALE** - Kenwood TS440S/AT + voice synthesizer + PS50 power supply. Mint condition. Call Ken Troxell, KM4GX. 2009 NE 21st Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305. Ph: 954-566-6193 after 8 p.m.

The ideal man is tall, dark, and has some.

**FOR SALE** - Henry 2K3 console linear pair 3\_500Z, 80 thru 10 meters, 1500 W PEP - \$750.00

**FOR SALE** - Hammarlund HXL 1 Linear, converted for pair 8875. Needs new elect. caps. in power supply - \$325.00

**FOR SALE** - AZDEN 2 meter FM PCS 4000 complete with mike, manual org. pkg. mint - \$175.00

**FOR SALE** - 2 meter linear 100 W out for 10 W in w/matching power supply combo. Both - \$150.00

**FOR SALE** - 2 meter RF switched M.M. preamp never used in org. carton. GASFET - \$60.00

Come see the above in Englewood, FL but call me first. Frank, W4AMJ - 941-474-5697

**Point to Ponder:** If 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the doors? (Tnx Sandy KE4TQZ)

**FOR SALE** - Complete starter station: ASTRO 102BXA w/ power supply/speaker; reported as "having the best audio on the band". C64 computer w/disk drive and books, good for RTTY etc. - \$450.00. Cushcraft ATB34 Tri-Bander - \$100.00. You pick up. Clipperton-L 1 kW linear amp. - \$400.00. SWAN WM-2000 Wattmeter - \$25.00. G.B. Patterson, N4DQY. Ph: 407-773-7248.

**FOR SALE** - New, original box, never used Cushcraft antenna, 3 WS 17/12 - \$200.00. Turner Mike, 3 plus - \$30.00. SP20 Kenwood speaker - \$20.00. Daiwa RF speech processor - \$50.00. Heathkit mike equalizer HD 1986 - \$25.00. Heathkit headset - \$10.00. Millen grid dip meter mint - \$70.00. Henry Haayen, WD4PTO. P.O. Box 660189, Miami, FL 33266. Ph: 305-871-7232.

## Comments on Classified/Hambars?

In the September issue, we asked readers to comment on the reasons for the decline in classified advertising. Surprisingly, the request for comments brought a larger than normal number of classifieds. We'll just wait and see what happens. Anyhow, SKIP received a few comments:

### Fred Marchman, AA4FG suggests:

Time between submittal and publication too long. If time could be 5-10 days later it would be helpful. Also, it is hard to determine the price of the ad and it would be easier to use credit cards.

**Response:** The magazine is nearly in final form around the 15th to 18th of month previous to month of issue. At the latest, material must be to printer 10 days before end of month. After printing, the magazines must be labeled and sorted for mailing which consumes another 2-4 days. So one can see that anything much later than 10-13th of month cannot be accommodated - though I try.



*I wish I could charge flat rate for all ads but there are always those who abuse the limits of reasonability. So figure about 5 characters/word multiplied by 10 cents/word. I ask that name and address be included since not everyone can afford to buy a callbook. Re credit cards. Credit card companies charge for service and SKIP has only ever had about 1/2 dozen requests to use credit cards in last 3 or 4 years.*

### Tom Carter, W4NHC, 50 year QCWA member said:

Hams don't build anymore, they're just appliance operators. They're just looking for something to plug in and play.

### From about a half dozen miscellaneous hams at Melbourne Hamfest:

Beats me. Dunno. One guy just reads the jokes.

*Send me your comments.*

Classified Hambars should be submitted to SKIP, 672 Indian River Drive, Melbourne, FL 32935 on or before the 10th of the month previous to the month of publication. No ads printed without full remittance. PLEASE print clearly and include name, address and phone number in ad (if possible). Address information counts in cost calculation. Absolutely no ads by phone. The Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertisement deemed inappropriate.



## Silent Keys

We regret to report the passing of the following Amateur Radio Operators. Please notify SKIP of silent keys in your area.

KF4KAR - W.C. "Buddy" Holzapfel, Margo

W3AA - Harold Fox, Madeira Beach

W3YVA - John E. Lange, Venice

W4BWR C.R. Nissen, Palm Bay

WB4EQL - Opie Tittle, Clearwater

K4FSC - Arthur E. Stainforth, Venice

N4SBT - Leslie R. Peterson, Hollywood

KB4ZWH - George C. Sherman, Deland

W9QB - Harry M. Neben, Palm Harbor

WA9ZBG - Marvin C. Hein, Edgewater

HK1KWG - Carlos Haayen, Barranquilla, Col  
(brother of Henry, WD4PTO)

## FLASH UPDATE

### On-line vanity call sign

An electronic version of the Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign Request Form 610V will be available September 23, 1996, on the Internet at the Federal Communications Commission Wireless Telecommunications Bureau home page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb>, under Amateur Radio-Interactive Vanity Call Sign. Detailed filing instructions are available by clicking on the item number on the Internet form.

Electronic payment is not yet available. Applicants must mail a completed FCC Form 159, FCC Remittance Advice, with payment to Federal Communications Commission, Box 358994, Pittsburgh, PA 15259-5994. Note that this is a different Post Office box and ZIP code than for vanity requests and payments using hard-copy forms.

For technical assistance, call the FCC Technical Support Group at 202-414-1250. For general application assistance, call the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Consumer Assistance staff at 800-322-1117.

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## Privacy Concerns Swamp Lexis-Nexis

DAYTON, OHIO, U.S.A., 1996 SEP 20 (NB)—By Grant Buckler. Callers have been flooding the switchboard at online information provider Lexis-Nexis, demanding that their names be removed from a database that company officials claim is no more than an electronic white pages, but others believe is a threat to personal privacy.

The P-Trak Person Locator database was put online on Lexis-Nexis in June, and immediately was embroiled in controversy because it included social security numbers. Within days, Lexis-Nexis blocked the display of the social security numbers, although they are still in the database and if you know a person's social security number you can use it to search for the person's record. The number itself is not displayed, though, so P-Trak can't be used to obtain an unknown number.

With that change made, Lexis-Nexis officials maintain the database poses no privacy threat. Messages circulating on some Internet news groups and listservs, though, are claiming that it provides access to medical records, credit histories, mothers' maiden names and other sensitive information. This is not true, company spokeswoman Judi Schultz told Newsbytes, but the rumors have led to a rush of phone calls from people seeking to have their records taken off the database.

Schultz said the P-Trak database contains the name, the address, previous address if available, the month and year of birth, and the telephone number for each individual on record. The maiden name of the individual sometimes appears, Lexis-Nexis admitted, but the maiden name of the person's mother does not.

Lexis-Nexis will remove people's records from P-Trak on request, Schultz said. To ease the strain on the company switchboard, though, the firm is asking those who want their names taken off to send e-mail to [p-trak@prod.lexis-nexis.com](mailto:p-trak@prod.lexis-nexis.com), or regular mail to ATTN: P-TRAK, P.O. Box 933, Dayton, OH 45401, stating their complete names and addresses.

In an earlier interview with Newsbytes, Steven Emmert, corporate counsel at Lexis-Nexis, said the main target market for the P-Trak service is lawyers, who can use it to track down people such as witnesses and defendants in court cases, beneficiaries of wills, and those who need to be notified of pension benefits.

(19960920/Press Contact: Judi Schultz, Lexis-Nexis, 513-865-7466, fax 513-865-1350)

### Quote of the month?

FCC Chairman Reed Hundt, in London offering his "Seven Commandments" for telecommunications competition: "How many licenses should be auctioned? As many as can be found in the airwaves. What if the spectrum is already lightly used? Allow auction winners to relocate the existing users at no cost, so that the market can clear spectrum. How should the spectrum be used? Any way the auction winners want: no restrictions; no rules; total flexibility."

-ARRL Letter





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You can also submit articles by modem up to 14400 baud or FAX on our toll-free 800 line. Also use the 800 number for story leads, news items and other news-related topics. No Classifieds (HAMBARS) by phone.

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# SUBSCRIPTION FORM



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